

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 3, 11, 13, 15 and 16 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-21, following entry of this Amendment, are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 8 and 20 have been amended, and claims 3 and 15 have been canceled. The limitations of allowed claims 3 and 15 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 8, respectively. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Each occurrence of indefiniteness has been corrected by amendment above. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ghodsian (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0115293). Claims 7 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghodsian in view of Khanna et al. (Article entitled "Microfabrication Protocols for Deep Reactive Ion Etching and Wafer-Level Bonding") ("Khanna"). These rejections, as they may apply to the claims, as amended, are respectfully traversed.

Applicable case law holds that in order to anticipate a claim, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every feature of the claim. Furthermore, in order for prior art to render a claim obvious, the prior art must suggest all of the claimed features and their combination to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

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Claim 1 now recites, inter alia, "removing the etching mask pattern," "removing the metal layer," and "removing the buffer layer." Claim 8 has similar limitations. Neither Ghodsian nor Khanna discloses, teaches or suggests these features, as admitted by the Patent Office.

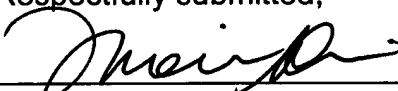
Since Ghodsian does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 1 and 8, these claims cannot be anticipated. Thus, the rejection of claims 1 and 8 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-14 and 16-21 depend on at least one of independent claims 1 and 8, and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 8.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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